



## **Minutes Tempe Veterans Commission February 02, 2021**

**Minutes of the TEMPE VETERANS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, February 02, 6:00 p.m., via Microsoft Teams.**

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

Jeremy Farr, Chair  
William "Bill" Blair  
Phillip Kraft  
Michelle Loposky  
Cameron Johnson  
Timothy Rogers  
Chantele Carr

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Abe McCann, Vice-Chair

**Staff Present:**

Octavia Harris, Deputy Human Services Director  
Terrisa Mays, Administrative Assistant II

**Guests Present:**

Councilmember Robin Arredondo-Savage  
Julie Kent, Downtown Tempe Authority  
Ro Gonzalez, Valor on 8th

**Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order**

Chair Jeremy Farr called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**Agenda Item 2 – Attendance**

**Agenda Item 3 – Public Appearances**

**Agenda Item 4 – Review and Approval of November 10, 2020 Minutes**

**MOTION:** Motion to APPROVE November 10, 2020 minutes by Commission Member Bill Blair

**SECOND:** Motion seconded by Commission Member Phil Kraft

**AYES: Chair Jeremy Farr, Vice Chair Abe McCann, Commission Members Bill Blair, Phillip Kraft, Michelle Loposky, David Lucier, Cameron Johnson and Chantele Carr,**  
**ABSENT: Vice Chair Abe McCann, Commission Member Michelle Loposky**

**Agenda Item 5 – Chair’s Remarks**

Chair Jeremy Farr welcomed everyone and thanked commission members for their efforts and contributions.

**Agenda Item 6 – Downtown Tempe Banners– Councilmember Robin Arredondo-Savage, Julie Kent, Downtown Tempe Authority**

Julie Kent reviews feedback from Commissioners. Commission suggested creation of a preliminary form to forward to veterans organizations/associations, Commission could possibly be tasked with reviewing applications. Time frame for developing the program is a concern. Veterans Commission can make program recommendations, implementation of said recommendations falls under Human Services. Councilmember Arredondo Savage suggests Veteran’s Day to debut banner program. Expansion outside of the district would depend on permission given by the City of Tempe. Commission discusses how the public is made aware of the banner program. Downtown Tempe Authority and PIOs could develop promotional efforts to make the public aware of program. Councilmember Arredondo-Savage explains that the Banner program will be a collaborative effort that will include the City of Tempe’s Human Services and Special Events departments, Downtown Tempe Authority, and the Veteran’s Commission. A potential goal is to tie the Veteran’s Day Parade with a sample banner featuring the parade’s longtime coordinator.

**MOTION: Motion to SUPPORT Veteran’s Banner Program by Commission Member Bill Blair**

**SECOND: Timothy Rogers**

**AYES: Chair Jeremy Farr, Commission Members Phillip Kraft, Timothy Rogers, Chantele Carr, Bill Blair, Alfred Trevino and Cameron Johnson**

**ABSENT: Commission Members Michelle Loposky, Abe McCann**

**Agenda Item 7 – Valor’s Veterans Community Outreach - Ro Gonzalez, Valors Veterans Community AZ**

Marine Corps Veteran Ro Gonzalez presents Valor’s Veterans Community Outreach program. Established in March 2018 to connect veterans’ and veterans families with each other and resources. This program provides volunteer opportunities and social opportunities for veterans from every branch and era. The program partners with other organizations, and can connect veterans to resources that include: transitional veterans programs, mental health and addiction treatment and services, and cybersecurity training. Mr. Gonzalez would like to establish a Veterans Resource Center in Tempe that is established and run by veterans. Jeremy advises Mr. Gonzalez to set up an appointment with the Director of Human Services. Octavia Harris, Deputy Director of Human Services, invites Mr. Gonzalez to schedule a meeting with her and the department head. Mr. Gonzalez invites Commission members to ongoing Saturday bike ride activity for veterans.

**Agenda Item 8 – Content Listserv – Octavia Harris, City of Tempe**

Staff presents current draft content for e-blast to be made public in March. Staff to receive feedback via email and make any recommended changes before submitting e-content City of Tempe.

**Agenda Item 9 – Commission Member Updates/Announcements**

Phil Kraft makes Commission aware of singing Valentine's opportunity. Chantele Carr sent out MAC scholarship information as asked.

**Agenda Item 10 – Future Agenda Items – March 2, 2021**

- Review of Survey Results with Aaron Peterson
- Habitat for Humanity Guest Speaker

**Agenda Item 10 – Adjournment**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.**

Next meeting will be on March 2, 2021

Minutes Prepared by: Terrisa Mays  
Reviewed by Octavia Harris

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Jeremy Farr, Chair  
Tempe Veterans Commission